Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2009

The Idaho BHS Training and Exercise Program has had a very busy year so far.

Since the beginning of this year, BHS has sponsored 265 training events and conducted 35 exercises across the state. One of the accomplishments we are most proud of is the addition of a valued team member, Sue Welch. Sue has been hired as the Northern Idaho Regional Training and Exercise Coordinator and, along with the other BHS coordinators, will assist local jurisdictions, tribes and state agencies with their training and exercise needs. She joins Jim VanDinter, (Southern Idaho) and Steve Hayward (Eastern Idaho) to round out our team. Collectively, the Training and Exercise team has decades of experience and has proven to be an indispensable resource. "One of the best parts of our job is building relationships with the responders in our communities and seeing how we can make a difference," said Hayward when assisting Caribou County with a full-scale exercise last year.

As BHS looks forward to building capabilities across the state, one of our goals was to introduce our state agency partners to emergency management concepts. One of the first steps to do this was to designate state agency representatives that have emergency management responsibility and provide Incident Command System Training. Our teams worked very hard to integrate state agency representatives into classes with local first responders and the result was nothing short of success. Most of Idaho's state agencies have reached their target training quotas for National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliance—congratulations! Should you or your agency have questions about NIMS training requirements, please visit our website at www.bhs.idaho.gov.

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Photo: Steve Hayward

On January 31st, Bear Lake County conducted a Winter Search and Rescue exercise. With use of trained volunteers and county responders, the exercise demonstrated best practices for responder winter safety.

Photo: BHS

The Florence Lee was contracted to break up ice dams on the St. Joe River, Benewah County, January 2009. This situation was carefully monitored at the State of Idaho EOC.

Idaho BHS Operations Directorate

The Idaho BHS Operations directorate is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Idaho Emergency Operations Center (IDEOC), our six Area Field Officers (AFOs), the Emergency Alert System (EAS), Disaster Recovery Section and Training and Exercise Section.

The IDEOC is co-located with Idaho BHS on Gowen Field. A new extension to the existing building was recently completed providing a "State of the Art" facility. The IDEOC is activated at the direction of the Idaho BHS Director.

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> “One of the best parts of our job is building relationships with the responders in our communities and seeing how we can make a difference”

T & E continued from p.1»

The BHS Exercise Program has also made great strides in developing exercises to test emergency response plans and response capability across the state. Through these exercises, we are able to share best practices and lessons learned which in turn make our communities safer. So far this year, our teams have been able to coordinate exercises ranging from executive level tabletop discussions to tactical operations involving local first responders. We would like to thank our cooperating agencies for their efforts to make these endeavors successful.

Photo: BHS

On April 4th, 2009 Gem County sponsored an exercise that simulated an “active shooter” at the Gem County Courthouse. Law Enforcement teams worked very closely with Citizen Corp teams to respond to the scenario using the Incident Command System.

The BHS Training and Exercise calendar can be found at www.idahoprepares.com.

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This newsletter is the official newsletter of the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security. This quarterly publication is intended for the use of the State of Idaho’s emergency management community, legislators, government officials and others who are interested in learning about Idaho’s emergency management techniques and procedures.

C.L. “Butch” Otter, Governor

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WELCOME

It is indeed an honor and pleasure to provide the inaugural issue of our first quarterly newsletter. This newsletter is primarily focused on you, our customers. The focus of the newsletter is to provide newsworthy and timely topics for all involved in emergency management and homeland security. It is our hope that as the newsletter evolves, with input from you and as well as continued focus from our program managers, it becomes an extended voice for you…our customers.

Your feedback is important to us as we continue to strive to provide seamless support to you during all phases of emergency management. Please feel free to contact me (bshawver@bhs.idaho.gov) or any member of the Bureau of Homeland Security team if you have ideas on how we can better support you or improve the focus of this inaugural newsletter.

Thanks

Bill

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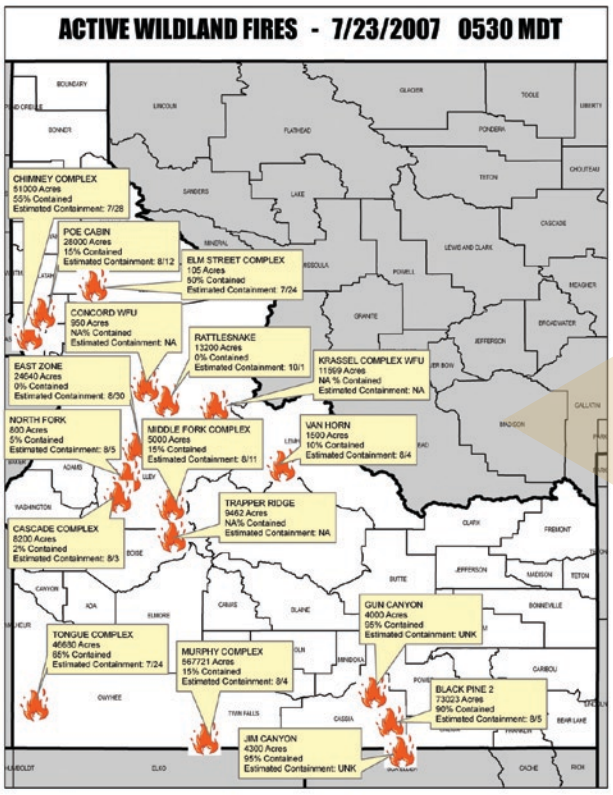
Geographic Information System technology

For the past five years, Idaho BHS has been utilizing Geographic Information System (GIS) technology to assist in all four phases of emergency management. Geospatial information can be displayed as maps, tables, graphs or models depending on the situation and the need of the user.

So what exactly is GIS? GIS is a system of hardware and software used for storage, retrieval, mapping and analysis of data that is geospatially based. Features (points, polygons, lines) are stored in a coordinate system (latitude, longitude, etc.), by street address, or some other property that references it to a particular place on the earth. Features can also have other information associated with them in a database or a series of databases that can be used for analysis. Many of the maps produced by local, county, state, tribal and federal agencies are GIS products. A user of a hard-copy map may not realize that the particular street they are looking at has hundreds of fields of related data, such as lane width, pavement type, speed limit, accident count, etc. If viewed using GIS software, these attributes would be accessible to view, query, label or edit.



A GIS product produced by our office. Products can be customized for a variety of user needs.

Idaho BHS uses GIS to model flooding and potential flooding of Idaho's rivers and streams, producing maps that display flood extent and depth, and reports providing information on shelter needs, debris generation, and projected financial loss to homes and businesses. Similar analysis is used to model potential earthquake damage. These models provide information that can be used by planners and officials to formulate mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery program needs. During the summer months, GIS is used to provide situational information on wildfires throughout the state. The Bureau analyzes not only the risk of fire to communities, but the risk to critical infrastructure that may be in close proximity of the fire.

Idaho has an extensive inventory of geospatial data that is available to public and private parties. There are public websites that distribute data. Personal and sensitive data are available only to approved agencies.

If you would like more information on what data or GIS services are available in your area, I suggest you first contact your county assessor. Assessor data is very accurate and is kept up-to-date. If electronic data is available for GIS, your assessor will most likely know what other local data is available. You may also contact our office for other resources.

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The Role of Logistics in Emergency Management

The Idaho BHS Logistics Division is actively engaged in the Bureau's overall preparedness goals. In addition to the usual daily operations of maintaining the Bureau's fleet of vehicles we are also charged with oversight of response assets. BHS logistics maintains awareness of emergency sand bag stores, snow blowers, snow shovels, chain saws and hand held radios.

Recently, the role of Logistics has increased as the Bureau has purchased and organized equipment designed to provide critical BHS support functions at locations throughout the state. This equipment includes our exercise/communications trailer which houses multiple radios and can transmit on four (4) different radio spectrums simultaneously. This system has the capacity to interface with all emergency radio traffic from an entire region, all at the same time.

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Logistics continued from p.3»

The newest addition to our mobile communications capability is a large trailer with a full complement of radios that can communicate on aircraft, marine, high band (HF) and the usual VHF, UHF and the newest 700 MHZ frequencies. Additionally, this trailer houses a satellite uplink that gives us internet capability anywhere we can see the sky. Special user stations are built into the trailer to provide work space for several people.

This Command Trailer, as we call it, contains office printers, land line telephone capability and all the basics you would find in an office. Heating or air conditioning, as weather requires, is easy as all trailers are supported with a large diesel generator that is towed to locations to support the mission. If the mission is going to be extended or requires a large number of people we also have a portable building.

Our "super tent" is free standing, and as you would expect, comes complete with heat and AC as well as a hard floor and separate work stations. Additionally the design of the radios in the Command Trailer is such that each worker in the tent can operate a radio, programmed to meet his or her communications needs, right from his work station in the tent. Finally, this portable "campus" includes a separate relief station and sleeping quarters with beds.

Command trailer and tent set up at a recent exercise in Twin Falls County.

BHS Logistics is constantly striving to be ready to support the needs of our agency as it, in turn, supports the citizens of our state in the event of a natural or human-caused disaster.

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The Value of Dam Exercises

Dams 10 feet and higher or which store more than 50 acre feet of water are regulated by the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), as are mine tailings impoundment structures.

Idaho currently has 546 water storage dams and 21 mine tailings structures that are regulated by IDWR for safety. These structures are inspected every other year unless there is a problem.

IDWR requires intermediate and high risk dams to maintain operations plans with procedures for emergency operations. These plans are updated and exercised regularly.

Recently the Bureau of Reclamation held a functional exercise of their Boise River Dams; Anderson, Arrowrock and Diversion (Lucky Peak Dam is operated by the U.S. Corps of Engineers). This was the first exercise of this magnitude that the Bureau of Reclamation has done. The planning was done in concert with local, county, state and federal agencies and tested plans and procedures of each with a catastrophic failure of the three dams.

Nick Schilz, Elmore County Disaster Services, researches information in the Dam Emergency Action Plans at the Bureau of Reclamation's Boise River dams exercise

Magic Valley Reservoir Hydroelectric Project also recently held a tabletop and functional exercise that expanded on the traditional method of only testing the facility plan. Dam owners are finding value in adding more injects to their exercises that expand the role of other agencies and their plans. This allows for a larger scope of participation of other agencies and the exercise then becomes even more valuable to all in attendance. Dam owners and operators learn more about the consequences of a failure and how agencies respond to the effects caused by the flooding. Agencies learn about the procedures that dam owners will activate as well as other agencies they will be working with.

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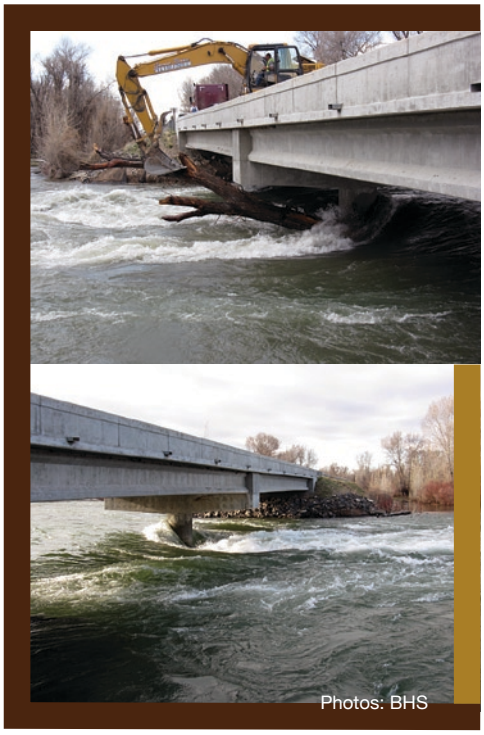
We have three activity phases ranging from Activity Phase I, the lowest level, typically an 8 hour per day/5 days per week activation to monitor an incident or respond to a slowly developing situation—to Activity Phase III, the highest level. This means 24/7 operations with all sections and Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) represented maintaining situational awareness and responding to requests for assistance in a rapidly developing event or an event causing significant property damage and personal injury to the effected population.

At Activity Phase I the IDEOC is staffed with Bureau personnel and may include liaison personnel from other State Agencies as necessary. Activation Phases II and III will require augmentation from other State Agencies and trained volunteers to ensure full functionality.



Photos: BHS

In 2008, the IDEOC was activated to deal with State Emergencies involving: Severe Weather, Wildland Fire, Spring Flooding, Mudslides and assistance to Texas for Hurricane Ike and California for Wildland Fires. In 2009, the IDEOC was activated for a short period of time to deal with the H1N1 virus.

The six AFOs provide a day to day BHS presence throughout Idaho. Each AFO has a Region for which they are responsible. You can find the AFO Regions: Northern, Northcentral, Southwestern, Central, Southeastern and Northeast on the BHS Homepage at www.bhs.idaho.gov. Click on the Elected Officials Tab and then click on the "Emergency Preparedness Guide for Elected Officials—Fall 2008" and look at page 6.

Equipped with a vehicle and several redundant modes of communication, each of the BHS AFOs assist the jurisdictional and Tribal Emergency Coordinators within their respective regions in:

- Managing federal Department of Homeland Security Grant funds that are passed down to the State of Idaho and its counties through Idaho BHS
- Maintaining situational awareness on any potential emergency/disaster event
- Advising jurisdictional elected leadership on the State and Federal Disaster Declaration process and serving as a direct link to BHS for any question/issue that a jurisdictional Emergency Coordinator or jurisdictional elected leadership may have regarding Homeland Security and/or Emergency Management.
- Additionally, each of the Idaho BHS AFOs can serve as a State Coordinating Officer (SCO) in the event of a Federal Major Disaster or Federal Emergency Declaration ensuring an effective and synchronized State/Federal response to any emergency/disaster situation.

The Emergency Alert System (EAS) is responsible for coordinating the broadcast of emergency information to all the citizens of Idaho. The EAS message is what you see scrolling across your television screen or hear when your radio is interrupted with an emergency alert for any emergency or disaster such as wildland fires, floods, earthquakes, terrorist events, etc. The EAS pushes its signal out to AM and FM Radio as well as to the National Weather Service, the Idaho Transportation Department and the Idaho State Police to get timely and accurate emergency information out to the citizens of Idaho. The EAS Program Manager works closely with the State Public Safety Communications (PSC) Directorate and the State 911 Commission.

Finally, should a jurisdiction or tribe experience an emergency/disaster event that generates a State or Federal Disaster or Emergency Declaration, and suffer damage to their public infrastructure, the BHS Recovery Section will coordinate the necessary assessments, project generation and paperwork that will eventually result in the provision of funds to bring the damaged infrastructure back to "pre-disaster" working order.

If you have any questions regarding the BHS Operations directorate you can contact the Deputy Director of Operations, Fred Abt at fabt@bhs.idaho.gov.

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H1N1 Influenza: a shot across the bow

Recently, the entire nation focused on Novel Influenza A (H1N1) as an emerging public health threat to the United States. This new flu virus began spreading from person to person with newly confirmed cases increasing daily creating a concern that a pandemic influenza event was gaining a foothold in our country and the world. Currently, the World Health Organization (WHO) is reporting 13,398 (May 27, 2009) confirmed cases and 95 deaths worldwide. Here in the United States, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention is reporting 7,927 confirmed cases with 11 deaths. Both the CDC and WHO anticipate the reported confirmed cases and deaths from H1N1 will continue to grow. Both organizations have reporting systems with extensive information available on their respective websites.

The critical point to be made is that we should recognize that we just took a warning shot across our bow!

Pandemic influenza is a very different hazard. Idaho is a relatively safe state when it comes to natural and man-caused hazards. Our state's emergency services organizations know how to respond to our typical hazards like wildland fires, flooding, severe weather, and hazardous materials spills. We respond often enough that we have the response process and procedures worked out.

A pandemic influenza outbreak of any significance will stress not only the emergency services staffs and first responders; it will provide public health challenges that have not been experienced since the Great Influenza Outbreak of 1918 where the worldwide death toll was estimated to be twenty one million.

From a planning perspective, it is vitally important for leaders and managers of all organizations, public and private, take the time to learn about and understand the threat a pandemic influenza outbreak poses to our households, communities, state, the nation, and the world. The level of planning has to go well beyond the routinely stated advice to wash your hands, cover your nose and mouth when you sneeze and stay home if you are sick. Various planning scenarios project that an organization could experience 30 to 50 percent loss of staffing for up to six weeks. Very few organizations could withstand staff losses of that magnitude and expect to remain operating, and we expect a percentage of the stricken employees will certainly die.

How do you deal with such an overwhelming event? A major portion of the answer is to have a plan. To organize a plan, identify a working group or taskforce to write a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) for your organization. There are many planning templates available from local and State organizations to include your local public health district, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, and the Bureau of Homeland Security. Identify your organization's critical functions, establish leadership succession for the positions required to maintain critical functions. Define policies and procedures that are communicated to all employees. All employees need to know what management is going to expect of them during the extreme operating conditions that a pandemic will create.

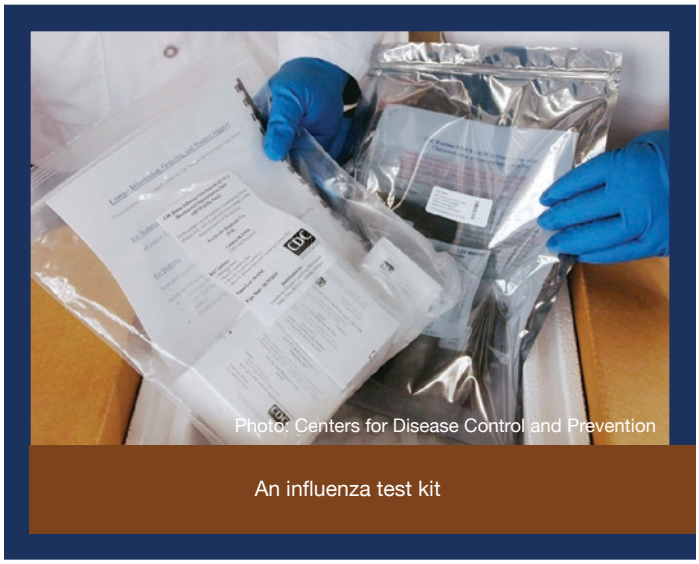

Photo: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

An influenza test kit

Every working environment will need to be evaluated. Employees working with the public in over-the-counter sales will have vastly different needs compared to crews working in an outdoor environment. Now is the time to consider what management is going to do if there is a significant Novel Influenza A outbreak this fall. What protective actions and supporting protective equipment will be needed to maintain an appropriate level of protection for your employees performing critical functions?

For example, staff members that work in an office environment may need to establish three or four Protective Action Levels. Each action level should have a set of minimum implementing criteria, that when met, will define a list of protective actions are initiated in the work space.

Level 1: Each employee should maintain a supply of facial tissue and a disinfectant hand wash on their desk, as well as each meeting room and public reception or waiting area. Trash containers with plastic liners should be available for disposal of used tissues.

Level 2: Signs should be posted that clearly state that handshakes are discouraged and define personal space separations to a minimum of six feet. All actions under Level 1 continue.

Level 3: The workforce is reduced or reassigned so that only half of the regular staff is exposed to over-the-counter interaction with the public for any given period of time. The public is encouraged to conduct business by phone or the internet.

Organizations should develop activation levels for their respective work places. It is unrealistic to suggest that this article describes all possible considerations for the nearly infinite number of working environments. Leaders and managers should anticipate there are going to be significant policy issues that will come up as a result of the planning process. Potential policy issues should not be a reason to put off the planning process; it is far better to address the policy issues in a planning stage than to wait until your organization is falling apart from exposure and sickness from influenza. The time to set and implement policy is now.

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STATEWIDE INTEROPERABILITY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

In 2006, the Statewide Interoperability Executive Council (SIEC) was established to "…provide policy level direction and promote efficient and effective use of resources for matters related to public safety wireless radio interoperability." Further, we were directed to "…provide recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature, when appropriate, concerning issues related to statewide interoperable radio communications for public safety in Idaho." The SIEC exists today to deliver interoperable public safety communications Homeland Security initiative driven programs and funding to our local level practitioners.

The SIEC consists of 18 members, 4 federal liaisons, and one member each from the Idaho Senate and Idaho House of Representatives. The members of the SIEC are appointed by the Governor and represent local statewide governmental associations and state agencies. The federal liaisons represent the organizations closely associated with our purpose. To contact the members, visit the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security website at www.bhs.idaho.gov and click on "SIEC." To contact me, Dodie Collier, SIEC Project Manager, email dcollier@imd.idaho.gov.

In 2008 we oversaw completion of the Statewide Operational Needs and Technical Resource Assessment which is available on the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security website. Our main goal was "to assess operational needs and technical resources that would define the overall operable and interoperable radio needs of the stakeholders." Prior to beginning this task, we had a good assessment of the needs of State agencies. What was missing for successful development of shared communications was an understanding of the operational and interoperability needs of agencies at the local level. We invited all agencies to participate and share inputs; input was provided by users from all 44 counties, three tribes, as well as federal and state agency representatives.

Currently the SIEC and its partners are focused on the formation and implementation of regionally focused practitioner-driven interoperable communications governance as recommended in the Assessment. The governance structure will utilize a regional approach and leverage the working agreements and investments already in place among the Idaho emergency response community.

Our continued vision is to create and utilize a "communications backbone" through the employment of the State of Idaho microwave and fiber systems; this vision is rapidly becoming reality. Today the system is allowing public safety responders to communicate with one another regardless of location across the state, in day-to-day operations and times of catastrophic events. The system is also bridging Idaho's communications with its neighboring states and Canada, thus improving mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities for all hazards.

The SIEC, with its statewide partners, will continue to work as one team with one mission and will continue seeking out all opportunities to assist in the continued development of a redundant statewide communications system for our public safety responders.

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CI/KR Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources Protection

Idaho's Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources (CI/KR) Protection Program is eighteen months old and making great strides in protecting our State's and Nation's high priority assets. The program remains true to its vision and mission statements:

Vision: Protect Idaho's current and future critical infrastructure and key resources from all natural and human-made threats through vigilant, adaptive, and dynamic security activities.


Photo: BHS

Mission: Create an environment of interactive information sharing between public and private stakeholders to identify, catalog, and assess Idaho's critical infrastructure and key resources to facilitate the protection of assets from all human-made and natural threats and to mitigate exploitation from identified vulnerabilities.

Over the past year and half the program had many significant accomplishments to include:

- Indentified over 1,500 CI/KR assets
- Conducted more than fifty site/vulnerability assessment visits
- Increased the Federally recognized Tier I/II asset list by 700%
- Obtained Buffer Zone Protection Grants for four sites totaling $800,000
- Conducted numerous security/vulnerability assessments
- Developed enhanced security plans in support of the 2009 International Special Olympics, held at many locations throughout Idaho

Future plans for the CI/KR Program involve extensive travel across the State to meet with local subject matter experts, further identification of critical infrastructure, and conducting assessments of high priority assets to ensure the protection and security of our state's and our nation's critical infrastructure and key resources.

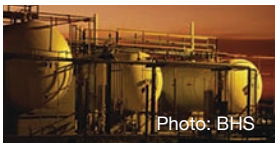
Photo: BHS

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Idaho BHS testing new methods of delivering emergency notifications

Idaho BHS is negotiating with MyStateUSA of Boise as we seek to enter into an agreement for the creation of a pilot program to test the Idaho State Alert and Warning System (ISAWS). This program will allow BHS to better notify the citizens of Idaho of an emergency much more efficiently when the program is fully implemented. It will also allow for the notification of Idaho's special needs population, and for the targeted recall of critical personnel.

"The Bureau has a responsibility to provide timely, accurate information at critical moments, and this pilot program will help the Bureau to identify the best methods for public notification," said Col. Bill Shawver, Idaho BHS Director. "The program will also will help us fill the present notification gap that exists with regards to special needs groups. I am confident that following this program, the State of Idaho and BHS will be able to implement a quality product which will benefit citizens throughout the State."

The pilot program has several objectives. Idaho BHS intends to create a website for voluntary self registration of the state's special needs population. Citizens will be able to identify their special need, and choose the method or methods of notification they prefer. They will also be able to identify special circumstances that affect them and their ability to evacuate an area, such as being confined to a bed or a wheelchair or requiring a service animal for assistance with day-to-day tasks.

Boise County will soon host a pilot program in order to demonstrate the ability to deliver mass notifications to less populated areas of the state that do not presently have enhanced 911 features, such as Reverse 911. Boise County will also have the ability to create specific calling groups for notifications, such as the Board of Commissioners, law enforcement officers, or county highway department employees.

The ability to select targeted areas for notification will also be tested during the pilot program. Affected areas can be identified using latitude and longitude, GPS coordinates, or other means of identification. An area surrounding the event can then be notified by several different methods. A circle (radius) can be drawn, or a polygon can be created that identifies the notification area. Other programs can be integrated that will allow us to predict where the wind may take a chemical cloud. This information can be used to identify the area that should be notified for citizens to either stay indoors with their doors and windows closed or leave the area, whichever is most appropriate.

Reaching mobile devices, such as cell phones, pagers, email and other communication devices will also be researched and tested during the pilot. In the future, we hope to provide all the citizens of Idaho the opportunity to register for notification of emergencies to their mobile devices by using web registration, similar to that which will be used for special needs registration. Citizens will be able to choose what type of notification(s) they receive, and the method or device by which they want to be notified.

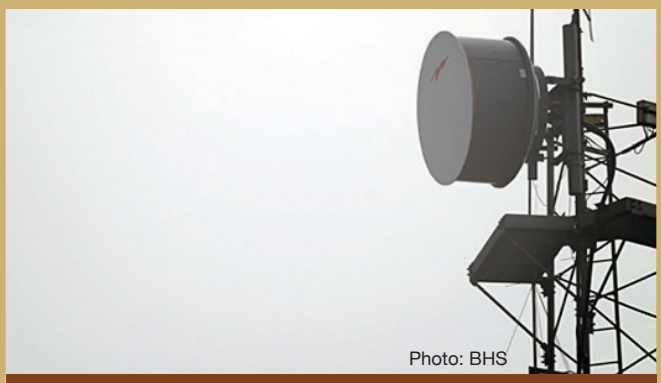

Photo: BHS

Idaho currently uses microwave technology via towers which are located throughout the state and similar to the one pictured above in order to broadcast Emergency Alert System (EAS) messages.

Idaho BHS looks forward to working with MyStateUSA to identify the methods available to us for emergency notification. We believe that obtaining a quality mass notification system is no less than the citizens of the State of Idaho need and deserve.

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Dams continued from p.4»

Exercise attendees should include first responders, emergency managers, elected officials, government agency representatives and others that would respond to a dam failure disaster. These exercises are valuable to all participants in the ability to test their procedures and to understand how other agencies are responding, so there is greater coordination. Individuals can then see where their agency procedures and plans have strengths and weaknesses.

The next step is to take the results of the exercise and update plans and procedures with the new information. Then staff and other agencies need to be trained on the updated plans. When training is completed, the new plans can be exercised.

If you have not attended an exercise for a dam in your area, consider contacting the dam owners and asking to be included in the next exercise and/or request a visit to the dam to see how it functions.

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Mitigation application season is upon us

The application period for the 2010 cycle of the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program is here!

Every community in Idaho is at some degree of risk from floods, wildfires or earthquakes. These grant programs provide financial assistance to state and local governments to protect the safety of citizens and the significant investment in public facilities, infrastructure, and private property.

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," as the saying goes. This is the premise for natural hazards mitigation. The Multi-Hazard Mitigation Council within the National Institute of Building Sciences completed a study of the effectiveness of FEMA's hazard mitigation grant programs. That study concluded that on average, every dollar invested in these programs provides about $4 in future benefits. Those benefits include avoided losses and reduced response and recovery costs.

Local governments and state agencies with vulnerabilities to natural hazards are encouraged to apply. Applicants must be covered by a FEMA-approved all-hazard mitigation plan prior to the application deadline in December 2009.

Eligible types of activities include, but are not limited to:

- Stormwater management projects
- Infrastructure protection projects
- Drainage enhancement projects
- Wildfire fuel management and defensible space projects.
- Acquisition / relocation projects
- Acquisition / demolition projects
- Wet or dry flood-proofing projects
- Elevation projects
- Structural or non-structural seismic retrofit projects

Idaho BHS will conduct applicant briefings throughout the state in June and early July. These briefings will provide interested parties with information about the application process and tips for creating a competitive grant application. A schedule of workshops can be found on the BHS website at www.bhs.idaho.gov.

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Idaho BHS just completed a non-structural seismic retrofit mitigation project using funds from the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for DR-1592. This project provides seismic protection to the computer servers for the bureau and portions of the Idaho Military Division. It protects the sensitive electronics of the computer servers by using specially designed platforms to isolate the servers from shaking during earthquakes. This technology also protects the equipment from toppling during earthquakes. A similar and larger project was completed for the State Controller's Office in January of 2008.

This type project is relatively inexpensive while protecting the investment in your equipment and data. It also will help to ensure that your critical computer systems remain operational following the next damaging earthquake. Contact Dave Jackson, the State Hazard Mitigation Officer for more information.

Photos: BHS Mitigation Section

Photos: BHS

First responders from around Idaho came to Boise for training and to receive Mobile Breathing Air Trailers. Each year, Idaho BHS uses federal grant funding to obtain and distribute emergency response equipment to enhance the capabilities of Idaho's first responders.

Idaho Hazardous Substance Response Act 39-7101 Update

The Idaho Hazardous Substance Response Act 39-7101 has been updated through the Legislative process and signed by the Governor on May 04, 2009 with an effective date of July 01, 2009. After it becomes active, an updated copy of the statute can be found on the BHS Web Site.

In order to better protect the citizens of Idaho, as well as property and the environment, we will now have a vehicle to allow first responders to respond to and recover the costs for incidents that are an unknown substance such as white powder, or the threat of an explosive. With the approval of the Bureau of Homeland Security Haz Mat Duty Officer, it will be determined if the substance is hazardous before it is released and causes harm to Idaho citizens, property, and environment. In most cases, the cost of response is far less if the incident is mitigated before the substance is released.

The changes to this statute will help ensure standards are met during the cost recovery process. This includes the state Bureau of Homeland Security Haz Mat Duty Officer approving the response through a State Comm conference call. BHS will review every packet received for correct rates billed, (Idaho Department of Lands rate schedule), as well as ensuring the response is eligible for recovery under the statute. This protects the responders as well as the responsible parties from excess charges for responding to the incident.

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Hazardous Materials Incident Cost Recovery

We have billed eleven incidents so far in 2009.
Of those incidents,

- 5 were Haz Mat
- 3 mercury spills (Wendell, Riggins, Idaho Dept. of Corrections)
- 3 drug labs.
- Total costs billed as of June 15, 2009: $40,100

Please remember, if you are submitting a Haz Mat cost recovery packet, the more information the better (e.g., narrative, timelines, responsible party if there is one, etc). Haz Mat cost recovery packets must be received by BHS no later than 60 days after close of incident. The updated cost recovery packet that must now be used is available on the BHS Website.

TIER II/CAMEO

Tier II/CAMEO 2008 CDs will be available by the end of June; we are still receiving Tier II 2008 submittals (even though they are due by 1 March every year). BHS has received 936 Tier II submittals so far, and 30 Continuous Release Reports (EPCRA 304) from Confined Animal Feeding Operations.

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Haz Mat Ops & Special Teams

Regional Hazardous Materials Response Teams (RRTs) - Fire based, specialized resource for responding to hazardous materials/WMD type incidents. Each team is working to become a Type 1 Haz Mat Team. Each team can provide for specialized chemical assessment, containment, research, and emergency control of chemical type incidents.

Regional Bomb Squads - Law enforcement based, specialized resource for responding to explosives, suspicious packages, or other devices suspected of having explosive potential. They are equipped to remote assessment and render safe activities.

Idaho Collapse Search and Rescue (ICSAR) Teams - Fire based, specialized rescue resource specifically designed to respond to the problems presented in completing search and rescue activities in collapsed structures. They can perform remote search, confined space, materials breaching, and other activities associated with reaching trapped persons within collapsed structures.

Idaho Incident Management and Support Team (IIMAST) - This team is made up of individuals from fire, law enforcement, EMS, public health, public works, and other public entities to provide overhead management of large scale, state or lower type emergencies/events. This team is trained in the wildland incident management style and can provide emergency organization to areas within the state that need this kind of assistance. This is a relatively new team and is still growing in capability.

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Finance Update

The Finance Department of the Idaho BHS administers many of the Homeland Security Grants for Idaho. In the 2008 grant cycle BHS brought over $11.2 million in federal and other funds into the state for Homeland Security, Emergency Management, and Hazard Mitigation projects and programs. Here is the 2008 breakout by grant:

Since 2001 these programs have netted Idaho over $100 million with a pass-through to local government of nearly $75 million. Below is a breakout of funding by year:

These funds have facilitated first responder training and exercises conduct, funded emergency management operations, and purchased over $60 million in emergency response and communications equipment. All of these activities have enhanced Idaho's first responders, and emergency manager's capability to protect its citizens by preventing and responding to all-hazard incidents as well as terrorism-related events.

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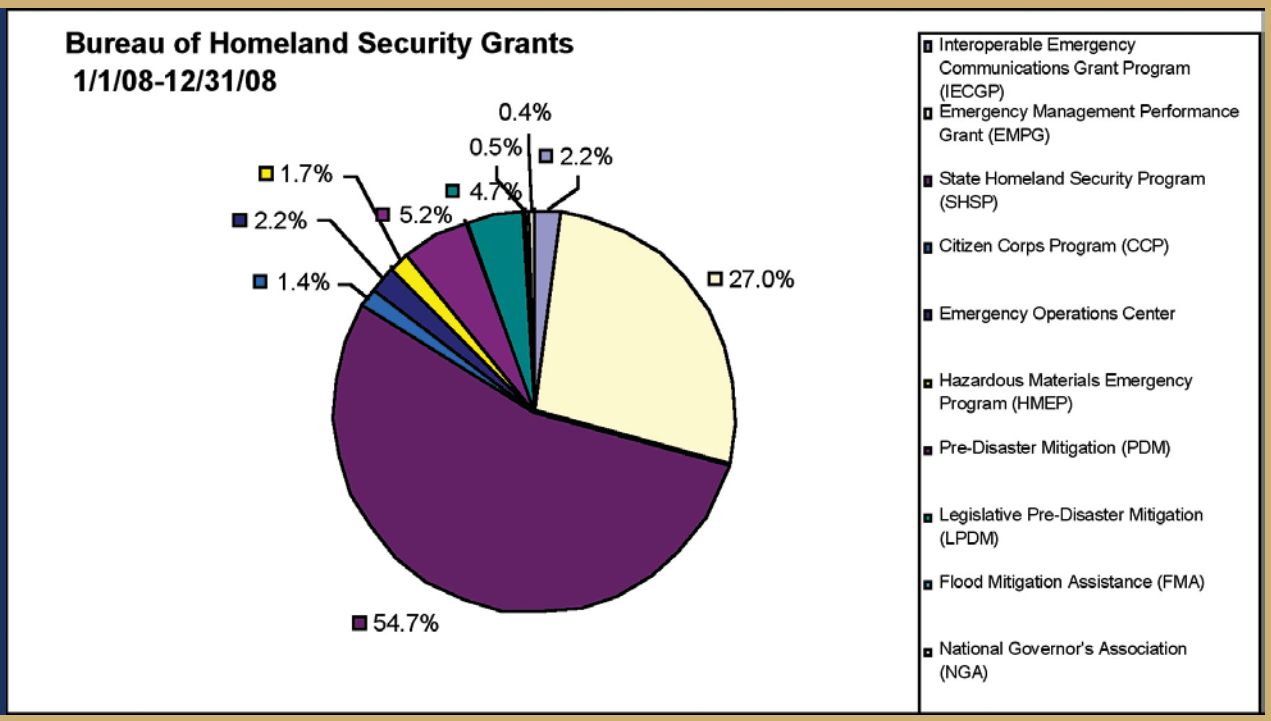

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BHS evaluating a new mapping application for statewide use in WebEOC

ESI Inc. will soon release a new version of the Mapper Professional "add-on" to WebEOC, our web-enabled crisis management tool. Idaho BHS is excited about the new capabilities of this product and is evaluating the product as a future purchase. To date, we have only used the "free" map tools in WebEOC, Mapper Lite and MapTac. Although these are useful to some degree, they are very limited. Mapper Professional 2.0 seems to have caught up to the capabilities we really want to provide to emergency management personnel, especially at the county level.

Mapper 2.0 allows each user in WebEOC to directly view geographic data from many sources, overlaid by event data entered into WebEOC boards (a board in WebEOC is an html page that acts as a display for either data input or viewing).

Users can also change the view of the map to meet their needs without affecting the display of the data or incident another user may be viewing.

Each user will have access to increased GIS (Geographic Information System) functionality:

- View real-time multiuser WebEOC board data on map
- Display data from multiple boards on a single map
- Combine WebEOC data with other GIS data or services on a single map to gain a common operating picture. Utilizing other data sources also limits the need for data storage and maintenance redundancy

- Configure the map with data from local and remote services such as, ArcGIS Server, ArcIMS, and ArcWeb Services and add these services on the fly
- Incorporate graphic annotation tools
- Geocode (the process of finding associated geographic coordinates, often expressed as latitude and longitude, from other geographic data, such as street addresses)
- Print maps
- Measure distances between points
- Link back and forth between the map and the board
- Address Search

With the GIS capabilities added, the user interface does not require the user to be a GIS expert or a WebEOC administrator.

This technology gives WebEOC users the ability to enter data and simply press a map button to display information geographically, enabling emergency managers and decision makers to create and view a dynamic, geographically based real-time view of events.

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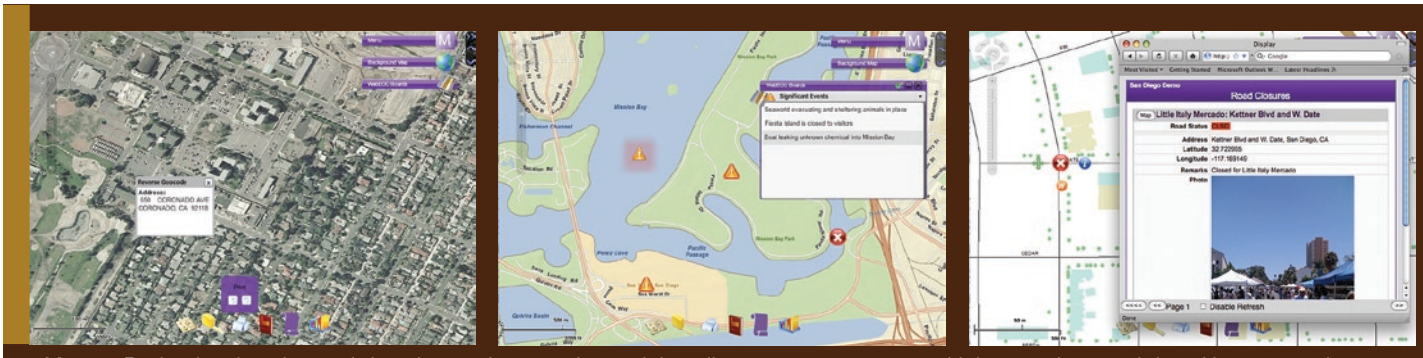

Mapper Professional 2.0 is a real-time, interactive mapping tool that allows users to access multiple map views and data. Users can select views at the national, state and local levels and quickly access critical information about unfolding events. In the examples above, users can toggle between photography and GIS layers while accessing real-time, shared data from various sources.